

January 1989

Belated holiday greetings and best wishes for 1989. Production delays on the card and recent hospitalizations have gotten me behind schedule.

Though I experienced many physical challenges in 1988, it was one of the best years of my life—many accomplishments and overwhelming support and nurturing from my gay/lesbian family as well as from my non-gay family and friends.

My work with the NAMES Project (AIDS Memorial Quilt) dominated much of my energy and time and truly became a labor of love. It also helped me to work through much of the grief and sorrow that I have experienced through the loss of so many friends over the last four years. The memorial panel that I created for my buddy Reino is depicted on the card.

I served on the executive committee that produced the Quilt display in San Diego, during the national tour and was also selected to be a "reader" of NAMES at the unfolding ceremony. I was also greatly honored to be among the thousands of volunteers who took the massive memorial to Washington, D.C. in October—just one year after the inaugural display at the National March On Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights. It was one of the great privileges of my life to be part of that historic event as an unfolder. And it was made all the more special by having my mom and sister there with me.

I am also proud to have joined 1500 of my fellow activists in shutting down the FDA for a full day to display our rage at their indifference to an AIDS-related death every thirty minutes. Though I went to jail for my efforts, along with 175 of my closest friends, it was well worth it.

The Lesbian & Gay Archives which I founded a year ago has been well received by the entire community. Growth and fund-raising has been slow, mostly due to my low energy levels. But it is a very exciting project and I think it will be my life's most important work.

Healthwise, I've declined somewhat during the past year—3 hospitalizations for pneumocystis pneumonia and one collapsed lung. However, I am still committed to living with AIDS or recovering totally. The cards, letters, phone calls, and visits and recognition that I have received have been a vital sustaining force. If determination, love and support are worth anything, I'll be able to continue my work for a long time.

Love in the struggle,